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Today@NPS - April 2016

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Today@NPS showcases some of the speakers, conferences, experiments, lectures, and other events that take place at the Naval Postgraduate School on a daily basis. If you would like more information about any of the highlighted activities please contact the public affairs office at pao@nps.edu. To view more stories visit the [Today at NPS archive](#). NPS' photo galleries and graduation pictures can be found on the [Photo Gallery - Collections page](#).



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Lewis Hunsaker

FNMOC Makes a Statement on Denim Day

By MC1 Lewis Hunsaker

Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center (FNMOC) staff Lts. Dustin Hocking, Tyonna Respicio and Dave Herrmann, from left to right, stand in front of a Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month Proclamation during Denim Day, April 27. Denim Day is a yearly, worldwide event to raise awareness of rape and sexual assault prevention.

"I hope everyone today received a greater understanding of sexual assault awareness," said Respicio, FNMOC's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Coordinator. "At FNMOC, we have a lot of new hires, so having an event like this helps them understand the program while promoting awareness."

The origins of Denim Day began in 1992 after an 18-year-old girl in Italy was sexually assaulted by her driving instructor. The perpetrator was convicted, sentenced to prison, but later appealed his sentence. The case went to the Italian Supreme Court in 1999, and the conviction was overturned based on the argument that the victim was wearing tight jeans which meant that she must have helped the perpetrator, thereby giving consent. Enraged by the verdict, women in the Italian Parliament came to work the next day wearing jeans in support of the victim.

The protest made its way to the United States, with the first Denim Day in the U.S. held in Los Angeles in 1999. Since then, it has been observed by a variety of businesses, schools and government agencies around the world. Throughout the month, FNMOC has held various SAPR events to include a chalk walk, teal Tuesdays, SAPR trivia and command training.

April 29, 2016



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Brian H. Abel

NPS, NSAM Community Honors ANZAC Day

By MC3 Brian H. Abel

NPS student Australian Army Capt. Adam Hepworth addresses the audience during the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) Day ceremony outside Herrmann Hall at dawn, April 25. ANZAC Day commemorates all Australians and New Zealanders who have served and perished in all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping missions.

"The ceremony this morning is ANZAC Day," said Hepworth. "It marks the Battle of Gallipoli and the landing of Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, 101 years ago today in Turkey."

The ceremony, which was attended by U.S., Australian and Turkish service members, commenced at sunrise.

"The Soldiers landed on the beach that day at dawn, where they encountered resistance from the Turkish forces," said Hepworth. "That is why the ceremony is held at dawn. Many of our Soldiers perished that very morning."

During the ceremony, Hepworth gave a commemorative speech for the fallen Soldiers who helped Australia and New Zealand, two youthful nations, establish their own identities on the global stage. In closing, Hepworth expressed his appreciation to those in attendance for sharing in this important day of remembrance.

"I would like to thank the NPS community very much for being so welcoming this morning, and being so respectful of this day for us," said Hepworth.

April 28, 2016

Guest Lecturer Discusses Modernization of Pakistan, Indian Air Forces

By MC2 Michael Ehrlich

Retired Pakistan Air Chief Marshall and former Chief of Air Staff of the Pakistani Air Force (PAF) Rao Qamar Suleman, standing left, holds an informal dialogue with students in NPS' National Security Affairs program, April 25. Suleman discussed modernization of the Pakistani and Indian Air Forces (IAF), and the implications of these developments within South Asia.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael Ehrlich

"Pakistan and India have fought in the past, and in any future armed conflict between the two countries, the air force will play a significant role," said Suleman. "Both are capable air forces that are engaging in modernization, which is likely to have a significant impact on their capabilities, but also as deterrents to warfighting."

Suleman noted that there are critical differences between the two forces, in both numbers and in investment.

"PAF will spend about \$6.5 billion U.S. from 2006 to 2020 on all of its acquisitions and modernization," said Suleman. "IAF has spent \$28 billion on its modernization from 2006 to 2016. And it plans to spend almost \$100 billion in the next decade to modernize not only its Air Force, but also its Army and Navy."

But, Suleman concluded, with force modernization comes additional advantages for both nations.

"The last 10 years have given both air forces a unique precision attack capability that they lacked earlier," said Suleman. "The biggest advantage of the modernization of both air forces is that they have established a greater deterrence in South Asia."

April 27, 2016



U.S. Navy photo by Javier Chagoya

Changing of the Guard at NPS' CORE Lab

By Javier Chagoya

NPS Department of Defense Analysis (DA) Common Operational Research Environment (CORE) Lab outgoing director U.S. Army Lt. Col. Glenn Johnson, left, welcomes his successor, Lt. Col. Gordon Landale, right, following Johnson's retirement ceremony, April 14. Johnson, an NPS alumnus, says he is proud of his many accomplishments at the helm of the innovative lab.

"In my tenure, we did over \$6.5 million in externally-sponsored projects with 23 U.S. government, law enforcement, academic and international sponsors," said Johnson. "While doing this, I aggressively integrated the idea of using Social Network Analysis to map out human networks of interest at the operational level. I was able to integrate the CORE Lab methodology into the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School curriculum, and had special forces groups, and local police, begin employment of the capability," said Johnson.

Incoming CORE Lab director Landale is also an NPS defense analysis graduate, with extensive special operations experience in various theaters and joint task force duties with NATO. His expectations for the lab are to continue its growth in social media analysis, and to encourage lasting partnerships with those in the business of combating terrorism.

"Over the next couple of years, I hope to continue the exceptional work started with my predecessor, Lt. Col. Glenn Johnson, and the rest of the CORE team," Landale said. "There are many diverse and dynamic threats facing our nation and our allies, and I believe the work that CORE does can contribute to how we respond."

But his primary objective, Landale said, is to ensure future decision makers have access to the innovative tools coming out of the Root Hall laboratory.

"My major objective during my tenure will be to secure baseline funding for the lab. Doing so will ensure our commitment to frontline research, thus providing the most up to date education and support to our sponsors, and maintaining the DOD's premier research environment for Social Network Analysis."

April 26, 2016



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Victoria Ochoa

NPS Celebrates International Day

By MC2 Victoria Ochoa

An Indonesian percussion band performs a song during NPS' annual International Day celebration hosted by the International Executive Committee (IEC) outside Root Hall, April 23. The event displayed the diversity and culture of more than 27 countries, which comprised of NPS' student and faculty population. NPS students and volunteers offered food, entertainment and information about their respective countries to visitors.

"This event provided a great opportunity for everyone to meet different cultures and sample various foods and beverages," said NPS Brazilian student Stilson Cardoso. "Everyone seemed to enjoy the event and a lot of fun was had by all."

Students from all over the world participated in the celebration with food, and performances including dancing and singing.

Each booth featured the countries most popular dishes, including but not limited to, South Korean japchae, Greek baklava, Canadian poutine and Indonesian coconut cake. Students also offered information about their countries and services like henna tattoos to visitors.

"This event provided a unique opportunity for international students to promote their culture, their cuisine, and their customs," said Hellenic Navy Lieutenant Ioannis Kanlis. "Along with performances from an Indonesian Folk Group, Brass Band, and live dancing from Turkish and Hawaiian Dancers."

The IEC supports international students and their families as they try to adapt to American life and culture while promoting good relations and cultural understanding between the U.S. and international students through events like International Day.

"International Day was a great success, one of the best we have ever had," said International Programs Coordinator Kim Andersen. "This year we had record breaking attendance and sales that will directly benefit the international students."

"This was a day of union between all of us studying here at NPS and the community," said NPS Peruvian student Alfredo Belaunde. "It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase our pride for our homelands, and the cultural diversity that each student brings to the NPS community."

April 25, 2016



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Brian H. Abel

Robotics Showcased at Annual Campus Event

By MC3 Brian H. Abel

NPS Department of Defense Analysis Lecturer Kristen Tsois demonstrates some of the RoboDojo's components during NPS' 6th annual Robots in the Roses research fair, April 21. The event provides university students and faculty with an opportunity to showcase their research efforts in robotics and unmanned systems to the broader campus community.

"Our purpose today is to share information about all of the amazing things that are happening in our community with regards to robotics and autonomous systems," said NPS Associate Professor Ray Buettner. "As a community of faculty and researchers, we also want to express our appreciation to our special guests, the NPS support staff, and the countless things these team members do to enable the faculty to execute the NPS education and research mission."

In recent years, Robots in the Roses has welcomed regional high school and junior college robotics teams to campus to demonstrate their own projects to the NPS community.

"In addition to NPS' own teams that have flown world-record swarms, operated underwater and aerial systems in the Arctic, and even developed drones that are launched from other drones, we are delighted to have very early career roboticists from our local schools here to inspire us today," said Buettner.

Robots in the Roses is an annual event sponsored by the Secretary of the Navy's Consortium for Robotics and Unmanned Systems Education and Research, CRUSER. For more information about CRUSER, visit <http://my.nps.edu/web/cruser>.

April 22, 2016



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael Ehrlich

NPS Board of Advisors Gathers for Annual Spring Meeting

By MC2 Michael Ehrlich

Members of the NPS Board of Advisors gathered on campus for their annual spring meeting, April 20-21, to discuss current and future university initiatives, along with the initial results of the recent Navy Inspector General inspection.

"The most important thing is that the inspection affirmed that we are doing what we are supposed to be doing with regards to our mission, functions and responsibilities," said NPS Acting Provost Dr. James H. Newman. "What we want to do is reframe the conversation back in Washington within these terms. Mainly, we want to regain the Navy's trust, and we feel we have come a long way in doing that."

NPS has re-emphasized its focus on its core mission, noted NPS President retired Vice Adm. Ronald A. Route, educating officers from all branches of the U.S. military, our allies, and Department of Defense civilians, to enhance our nation's warfighting capabilities.

The re-emphasis is part of an institution-wide effort responding to the Vice Chief of Naval Operations' (VCNO) roadmap toward re-establishing NPS as the pre-eminent institution for officer graduate education in the DOD.

"We have a roadmap from the VCNO, where we are now and how we are progressing to completion along the way," said Route. "I see this as very positive ... Even though we currently have this oversight, we also have a direct, persistent conduit straight to the VCNO. I am very confident this path will lead us back to a point where we are able to act with the full confidence of our leadership in Washington."

April 21, 2016

Retired Navy Capt. Paul Rinn Shares the Story of USS Samuel B. Roberts

By MC1 Lewis Hunsaker

Retired Navy Capt. Paul Rinn addresses students, faculty and staff during an NPS Secretary of the Navy Guest Lecture (SGL) in King Auditorium, April 19. Rinn shared his story when, as the commanding officer of guided-missile frigate USS Samuel B. Roberts (FFG 58), his ship struck a mine in the spring of 1988 while on escort duty in the Persian Gulf.

"The story of Samuel B. Roberts doesn't happen on April 14, 1988. It happens long before that," said Rinn. "The story of preparedness, combat readiness, strong leadership and everything else, starts way in advance."

With 13 years of Navy experience behind him, Rinn was assigned to be the CO of the U.S. Navy's newest ship, USS Samuel B. Roberts. He was also the youngest CO in the Navy at that time.

"When I first arrived at the ship, I wanted to generate a sense of what was important ... not just for me but for the entire ship's company," said Rinn. "The crew of 220 Sailors came from 47 different states. I had to bring everyone together to think, fight and care



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Lewis Hunsaker

alike, in order to be one unit."

With very little time to get his crew up to speed, Rinn initiated an intense training regimen that included cross training for all of his crew.

"We practiced, drilled, and practiced and drilled some more," said Rinn. "Until the crew was convinced that we could do everything faster and better than anyone. Once the crew saw that they were doing everything better than everyone, they really bought into the system."

On April 14, 1988, that training was put to the test when the Samuel B. Roberts hit a mine in the Persian Gulf, causing the ship to lose all power in the aft end of the ship.

"Power for the ship was rigged in 22 minutes by a Boatswain's Mate, Sonar Technician, Shipfitter, Cook [Culinary Specialist], and a Radioman with an Electrician arriving at the end," said Rinn. "This team powered up the ship and essentially saved the ship without a single engineer. Why was that? Because we trained!"

For his actions during the attack, Rinn was awarded the Legion of Merit with Combat "V" and he received the U.S. Navy League John Paul Jones Inspirational Leadership Award. Over the course of their Navy careers, 34 of his crewmembers made Chief Petty Officer, 20 advanced to Master Chief Petty Officer, while five of his officers went on to command and three to major commands. Rinn retired from the Navy in 1997.

April 20, 2016



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael Ehrlich

Annual International Day Celebration Set for Saturday

By MC2 Victoria Ochoa

NPS hosts the annual International Day celebration this Saturday, April 23, on the Academic Quad. University students from 30 countries around the world, including Germany, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Taiwan and Australia, will be sharing their distinctive cultures through authentic cuisine, activities, dancing and much more.

"Countries will be showcasing pride for their homeland and cultural diversity by serving various foods, displaying art work and sharing their personal experiences with the community," said International Programs Coordinator Kim Andersen. "Everyone is invited to hear, see and taste various traditions and cuisines firsthand, and celebrate the diversity of the NPS community."

Each year, NPS' International Executive Committee (IEC) organizes the event, which has been hosted on campus since 2006 to advance cultural appreciation and awareness.

"We work to promote good relations and cultural understanding between the U.S. and international students through events like this," said Hellenic Navy Lt. Ioannis Kanlis. "This event provides a unique opportunity for international students to promote their culture, cuisine and customs."

International Day runs from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. this Saturday, April 23, with free admission for everyone. All proceeds from the event are used by the IEC to support NPS' international student community.

April 19, 2016

Resident Naval Strategist Wayne Hughes Talks Maritime Innovation

By MC2 Victoria Ochoa

NPS Department of Operations Research Professor of Practice Wayne P. Hughes discusses maritime innovation during the latest Naval War College Monterey Faculty Workshop in Glasgow Hall, April 15. The Navy is undergoing swift progress in innovation, Hughes said, and will continue to do so by close paying attention to the work of his colleagues here at NPS.

"NPS is supporting innovative products that affect the surface Navy," said Hughes. "By anticipating Navy needs, we [NPS] have stayed a good five years ahead of the Pentagon in regards to future opportunities and risks."

Hughes went on to discuss one of those NPS-supported innovations, distributed lethality, spearheaded by Commander, Naval Surface Forces Vice Adm. Thomas S. Rowden.

"Rowden is specifying actions to give his surface forces an immediate, more distributable offensive capability to achieve his intentions with existing ships and aircraft, manned and unmanned," said Hughes. "He has embarked on real innovation to achieve a big change



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Victoria Ochoa

in a short time ... Quick, innovative thinking can bring definitive change to our Navy."

April 18, 2016



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Brian H. Abel

NPS Military Cyber Professionals Club Briefed by DHS Exec

By MC3 Brian H. Abel

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Chief, Cybersecurity Plans and Coordination Antonio Scurlock speaks during a briefing to the Military Cyber Professionals Association (MCPA) in the NPS Foundation Cottage, April 13. Scurlock spoke on DHS' unique perspective on cybersecurity, and presented new ideas brewing in his organization.

"Today, Mr. Antonio Scurlock from DHS is here to brief the cyber club about what DHS cyber is, as well as its responsibilities and initiatives," said Army Maj. Michael Klipstein, president of the MCPA Monterey Chapter.

Klipstein added that the chapter will be hosting a number of future briefings that will be open to everyone at NPS, not just the immediate members of the club. Briefings will cover "not just the technical, policy or the business aspects of cyber, but the coordination of all of these elements," he said. "This is beneficial to all students here at NPS."

Future events include a briefing with the information security officer of E-Trade, Klipstein said, with ongoing discussions with Microsoft and Cisco Systems as additional possibilities. He also brought attention to events outside of the MCPA umbrella.

"Cyber Endeavor 2016 will bring together academia, industry and government to discuss how the 'Internet of everything' is pervasive to every [aspect of society] and the implications of that in both classified and unclassified forums," he said.

April 15, 2016



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Lewis Hunsaker

NPS Union President Plays Lead Role in New DOD Performance Management System

By MC1 Lewis Hunsaker

National Federation of Federal Employees Local 1690 President Pete Randazzo has played an instrumental role in a recently announced DOD-wide civilian performance management system, an effort he has been involved with since October of 2010.

"I saw an opportunity to be part of a historical and unprecedented effort that could reshape DOD civilian culture," said Randazzo. "The return on this investment would be improved services and mission readiness for the military and its customers."

Initial discussions started in 2010 with more than 200 labor representatives, human resources professionals, supervisors and government leaders. Design teams were formed, with the details scrutinized by dedicated working groups over the last two and a half years.

"A huge emphasis has been placed on employee engagement, the relationship between the first-line supervisor and employee, as well as investing in training for supervisors," said Randazzo. "Employees will feel valued and recognized for the work they perform, which will generate improved morale and help bring new ideas forward."

Over the next two years, a majority of the approximately 750,000 employees in the DOD civilian workforce will have their performance rated under this system – the timeline for NPS has yet to be finalized. Randazzo has more than 35 years of federal service, the past 21 have been at NPS.

April 14, 2016

RoboDojo Invites NPS Personnel to Build the Perfect Glider

By MC3 Brian H. Abel

NPS student Lt. Chris McCook, left, receives instructions on how to assemble a glider, April 8, during an introduction to the RoboDojo's competition to see who can create a glider that will fly the furthest when thrown or launched.

"We are allowing everyone the opportunity to participate in this experiment to build a glider," said NPS Department of Defense Analysis Lecturer and RoboDojo sensei Kristen Tsolis. "We thought it's pretty exciting that people could use dollar foam board, 3D-printed motor mounts, and some basic electronics and make a really cheap glider that can accurately make it to its destination."



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Brian H. Abel

Participants have until April 21 to build, design and modify their gliders. During Robots in the Roses, participants will demonstrate their building skills during a distance challenge.

"On April 21, participants will bring their assembled gliders with the adjustments they made to help them fly," said Tsolis. "Whoever throws their glider the furthest will win a \$15 dollar Starbucks card."

The competition is one of several RoboDojo events over the next several weeks. Check out <https://my.nps.edu/web/robodojo/welcome> for more information.

April 13, 2016



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Lewis Hunsaker

New CENTCOM Commander Offers Insights to NPS Students

By MC1 Lewis Hunsaker

Army Gen. Joseph L. Votel, Commander, U. S. Central Command (CENTCOM) addresses students, faculty and staff during a guest lecture in Ingersoll Hall, April 8. Votel talked about his objectives and concerns in the CENTCOM Area of Operations.

"Thank you for the opportunity to talk all of you today," said Votel. "NPS is one of our standout organizations that pushes ideas, and encourages us to think differently about our profession."

As the new CENTCOM commander, Votel talked about his three big priorities ... gain a broad understanding of the area; continue to build, establish and nourish relationships; and ensure the headquarters is responsive and agile to all components and Joint Task Forces.

"After 15 years of continued combat operations in this area, which most of you have participated in at some time or another, CENTCOM continues to play an important role in commanding and directing a multitude of operations at the crossroads of three geostrategic continental divides," he said.

"This area is now at its most unstable state in decades. Ongoing political transitions, civil war, ethno sectarian and an expanding global terrorism movement make this region susceptible to prolonged, long term turmoil and instability," Votel added.

During the discussion Votel also answered various questions from students and staff that ranged from NATO to continuity, and even unconventional warfare.

"We are in need of cutting edge, innovative and creative thinkers," said Vitol. "Thanks to all the faculty and staff here; keep pushing these students because we need them."

April 12, 2016



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Victoria Ochoa

NPS Professor Honored with Cyber Security Award

By MC2 Victoria Ochoa

NPS Distinguished Professor of Computer Science Cynthia Irvine is pictured in her office with the National Science Foundation's Women in Cyber Security 2016 Award of Excellence that she was honored with, April 1. Irvine was recognized for her research, innovation and contributions to cyber security.

"I'm very happy to receive this award," said Irvine. "The cyber security field has radically transformed since its early stages. It's necessary to find and educate people to protect to our country and our expanding technology."

Cyber security has taken on greater import as multitudes of new devices are connected to networks each year. Failure to use appropriate security measures on these devices opens up networks to adversary attacks.

"Technology is advancing so rapidly that by 2020 every man, woman and child will have at least three devices on [a network] at one time," said Irvine. "All this technology is improving life, but we have to build it and monitor it so it doesn't become corrupted."

Irvine has been an instrumental part of the NPS cyber security team since 1994 and has been a pioneer in the field since its early stages.

April 11, 2016

Controversial Alumnus Joseph Weber Featured in New DKL Exhibit

By MC2 Michael Ehrlich

Digital Services Librarian Irene Berry stands next to the Dr. Joseph Weber exhibit that she helped create in the Dudley Knox Library,



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael Ehrlich

April 7. An NPS alumnus, Weber overcame opposition by pioneering research into the existence of gravitational waves.

"The interesting story is that he was just recently vindicated ... his work has shown to be valid and significant," said Berry.

Weber claimed to have discovered gravitational waves, ripples in space and time, while working at the University of Maryland, College Park in 1969, though no one else was able to recreate the results. His work continued, despite the National Science Foundation cutting off his funding, until 2000 when he passed away at the age of 81.

In February of this year, the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory announced the detection of gravitational waves, generated by the merge of two black holes.

"I think this tells us a lifelong, learning story," said Berry. "He had the interest, and to me, it just shows that the work you do in your graduate or postgraduate studies may take a few years to pay off."

Weber's Navy service began in 1936 when he won a scholarship toward admittance to the U.S. Naval Academy. He served in combat during WWII, earned his master's degree from NPS, and headed electronic countermeasures design for the Navy's Bureau of Ships prior to his separation from service.

"He had an amazing naval career, surviving some significant battles, then went on to graduate education," said NPS Librarian Eleanor Uhlinger. "When he stepped out of the Navy, he got his Ph.D., became a professor, and gave back for years and years."

April 8, 2016



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael Ehrlich

War on the Rocks Founder Speaks at NWC Faculty Seminar

By MC2 Michael Ehrlich

Ryan Evans, Founder and Editor-in-Chief of popular web forum War on the Rocks, presents "How Our Elites See Foreign Policy" to students, faculty and staff in Glasgow Hall, April 1. Evans challenged those in attendance to use their experiences from serving in the military, and working for the government, toward influencing policy makers in Washington.

"The problem is, when you're a status quo power, a good day is when nothing happens, and it's really hard to discern and see the world when your best case scenario is when nothing happens," Evans said.

Evans previously deployed to the Helmand Province in Afghanistan as a social scientist on a U.S. Army Human Terrain Team. His online forum, War on the Rocks, has become a widely read platform for commentary on foreign policy and national security issues – a voice, he says, for those with real world experience.

"The biggest problem with our system is that people like you – people with military and government experience, people who have spent serious time studying an issue – aren't actually the ones that end up in positions of responsibility in the government," said Evans. "You need to get involved and be the experienced, authoritative voices that change how we as a country impact the rest of the world."

April 7, 2016



Photo courtesy the Hernandez family

NPS Community Says Farewell to Beloved Employee

By Kenneth A. Stewart

The Naval Postgraduate School community celebrated the life of one of its closest family members during a funeral mass for Sponsored Program Administrator Tara Carmilia Hernandez at St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel, April 6, and a touching vigil service the day prior.

Hernandez is part of an extended NPS family ... Her father, NPS Associate Professor and retired Army Col. Alejandro "Andy" Hernandez is a longtime faculty member and an alumnus of the university, and her sister Andrea is also a past employee. Andy Hernandez welcomed family, friends and colleagues who gathered to celebrate Tara Hernandez's life, and thanked the NPS community for their "amazing support" over the past several days.

"Our beautiful Tara was part of a large extended family that loved her to the very end. A middle child until her two younger sisters were later born, Tara was always the peacemaker, the mediator, among her four siblings," wrote the Hernandez family in Tara's obituary. "Talented, bright and full of life and good humor, Tara will be remembered as a kind and fun-loving friend, sister and daughter."

"Tara realized that this world is a temporary place. She was full of life even in the midst of her pain," said Father Dominic-Joseph R. Castro, who presided over Hernandez's funeral mass.

While Castro recognized the need for grieving, he also encouraged those in attendance to keep their focus on a life worthy of celebration. "Tara once told me that we were created to be gifts to one another. As we grieve for Tara, we need to celebrate the gift that was her life."

Castro and the chapel he leads have strong ties to the Hernandez family. Tara and her siblings celebrated several important spiritual milestones at the chapel, including first communions and confessions.

Laura Anne Ikner-Price served as Hernandez's supervisor for two years in NPS' Research and Sponsored Programs Office. She, like

seemingly everyone who knew her, remembers Tara fondly.

"Tara was always positive. She never had anything bad to say about anyone," said Ikner-Price. "I went through cancer myself two years ago. But despite her own illness, Tara used to offer me words of encouragement to lift me up."

Those words of encouragement were memorialized in an e-mail to Ikner-Price from Tara Hernandez, offering her colleague prayers all the while fighting a savage illness herself.

"I'm getting stronger with lots of help from CHOMP. I have all trust and faith in God. I can't wait to be well enough so I can pump some work out. I've been praying for you as well!" she wrote.

Tara Hernandez also worked at the NPS Comptroller's Office, where she was loved and respected by her many colleagues, several of which wore purple, Tara's favorite color, in her honor.

"Tara was a very sharp, bright, co-worker. She was also a student. In short, she was very impressive," said Financial Technician Shana Batlin. "We are struggling to come to terms with her loss."

Outside of work and school, Tara Hernandez was involved in Life Recovery, specifically with those afflicted with Leukemia. She also sponsored the education of two students through the Philippines Humanitarian Foundation.

Tara Carmilia Hernandez is survived by her parents, Alejandro and Mary Geraldine Hernandez, her siblings and large extended family at home, and an even larger one at NPS.

April 6, 2016



U.S. Navy photo by Javier Chagoya

Guest Lecturer Focuses on Climate Change Comms to Inform Naysayers

By Javier Chagoya

Penn State University Professor of Practice and NPS alumnus, retired Rear Adm. David Titley delivers a presentation on communicating climate change in the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Auditorium, April 1. The former Oceanographer of the Navy was on campus for a guest lecture in partnership with the Center for Ocean Solutions Monterey Area Research Institution's Network for Education (MARINE).

"Spoiler alert ... It's not about the science," said Titley, whose fast paced presentation, Communicating Climate Risk: Aligning Message, Messenger and Solutions, urged researchers and scientists to relate the subject of climate change to a more personal matter. Titley illustrated his point clearly with before and after photos of Hurricane Katrina's devastation around his own home in Stennis, Mississippi.

"Changes with regard to the environment are happening across the globe, we have only recently begun to understand the impacts on national security," Titley explained. "It's important to have a basic understanding of these impacts ... How to manage this risk; what are some practical solutions in regard to policy, operations, budgets or installation management; and, even how to have a conversation with colleagues who may not see climate change as a security risk."

Titley is widely recognized as a leading authority on climate change. As the former Oceanographer of the Navy then in 2009, he was charged to lead the Navy's Task Force Climate Change (TFCC) to address the naval implications of a changing Arctic and global environment.

"It was then Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead, who triggered the concept that climate change is a risk to the nation's security. The Task Force I led was able to then make recommendations to Navy leadership regarding policy, investment and action, and to lead public discussion on this complex issue," Titley said.

A Professor of Practice in Penn State University's Department of Meteorology, Titley currently serves as the director of the institution's Center for Solutions to Weather and Climate Risk.

April 5, 2016



U.S. Navy photo by Javier Chagoya

NSAM Hosts Tsunami Preparedness Seminar

By MC2 Victoria Ochoa

As part of Tsunami Awareness Week in California, Naval Support Activity Monterey (NSAM) joined with various city, county, state and federal representatives to host a Tsunami Preparedness Seminar, March 29. Personnel assigned and attached to NSAM had the chance to listen to subject matter experts and educate themselves on how to be better prepared in the event of a tsunami.

"Tsunamis are defined as a long, high sea waves caused by an earthquake, submarine, landslide, or other disturbance. Before a tsunami affects a coastal area, there is a "draw back" or an unusual lowering of ocean that exposes the sea floor," said Warren Blier from the National Weather Service. "The draw back means the water will surge back strongly with destructive waves affecting the coastline."

Since an earthquake-driven tsunami could take 10 or more hours to arrive at California shores, cities have adopted different forms of warning systems to advise citizens to move to higher ground. Signs near beaches and along tsunami evacuation routes in Monterey, for instance, warn of tsunamis and point to higher ground. Once higher ground is reached, authorities advise residents to remain in place due to more tsunami waves that could be imminent.

"To keep you and your family safe, there is no need to evacuate miles and miles away. Getting to a safe elevation of 20 feet above sea level in Monterey, or the highest floor of sturdy building will keep you safe during a catastrophe like a tsunami," said NSAM Emergency Manager Josie Burisow.

Preparing beforehand for a worst-case scenario can help service members, faculty and staff know what to do to protect themselves and their families if a natural disaster did occur, as well as aiding in recovery after the event.

"Families can prepare by designating a safe meeting point with family members, and making sure that family is not located in inundation zones. Keeping an emergency kit for earthquakes, fire, flood, tsunamis and other natural disasters is also a good idea," Burisow said. "It should have food, water, medications, first aid, extra clothes, a battery operated radio and flashlight as well as important documents."

The tsunami inundation zones can be seen using the California Inundation Maps from the California Geological Survey. The maps are broken up into quadrants to depict the maximum extent of tsunami inundation and to inform citizens of areas that could be affected by tsunami waters.

Residents of Monterey can register their cellphones for emergency messages using the Alert Monterey website at<http://www.alertmontereycounty.org/>. Service members should also update their Navy Family Accountability and Assessment System (NFAAS) if they are in an affected zone to maintain accountability.

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